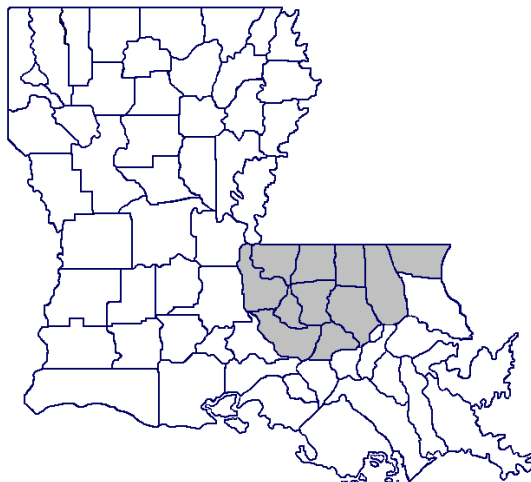


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 2
FOURTH QUARTER 2002
COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES**

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville,
Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,
Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 2 during fourth quarter 2002 was 378,145, an increase of 1.1% from the third quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.3% from the same period in 2001. Employment increased in 10 of the 20 NAICS sectors from the third quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 9.5% was in educational services.

Average quarterly employment data for fourth quarter 2002, third quarter 2002, fourth quarter 2001, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 24. Retail trade was the leading industry in RLMA 2 with 46,873 employees, or 12.4% of total employment. East Baton Rouge was the leading parish with 240,925 employees, or 63.7% of total employment.

Total wages increased 2.9% from the same period in 2001, and increased by 9.4% from the third quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$617.55. Iberville parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$793.25.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 2 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 2" beginning on page 27.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Ascension	\$ 669.22
East Baton Rouge	642.30
East Feliciana	527.93
Iberville	793.25
Livingston	478.15
Pointe Coupee	493.51
St. Helena	434.44
Tangipahoa	466.74
Washington	476.16
West Baton Rouge	615.63
West Feliciana	726.00

The number of reporting units in RLMA 2 for fourth quarter 2002 was 21,647.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 2
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

